

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 120612 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2764

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2396

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY 7/1/73

TAGS: OVIP, OCON, AF

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

REF: STATE 065057

1. DRAFT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS FOLLOW, AS REQUESTED.

2. ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

QUOTE: IT IS TRULY A PLEASURE FOR MRS. RUSH AND ME FINALLY TO BE IN AFGHANISTAN. WE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PLANNED TO VISIT YOUR UNIQUE COUNTRY, BUT SOMETHING HAS ALWAYS INTERVENED. ALTHOUGH WE CAN STAY ONLY A FEW HOURS, I AM LOOKING FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO TALKS WITH HIS MAJESTY KING ZAHIR, PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. VISITS OF THIS KIND, BRIEF THOUGH THEY MAY BE, CAN HELP FURTHER REINFORCE THE LONG TRADITION OF EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I HOPE AND BELIEVE MY VISIT TODAY CAN HAVE THAT RESULT. UNQUOTE.

3. DEPARTURE STATEMENT:

QUOTE: LEAVING AFGHANISTAN AFTER MUCH TOO BRIEF A STAY OF ONLY A FEW HOURS IN THIS FASCINATING COUNTRY, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK HIS MAJESTY KING ZAHIR AND PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ FOR THEIR GREAT KINDNESS AND FOR THE WARM WELCOME WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED. NOW I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY WFGHAN HOSPITALITY IS SO UNIVERSALLY RENOWNED. DURING THESE FEW HOURS WITH YOUR LEADERS, MY KNOWLEDGE AND ADMIRATION OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN REINFORCED.

IN OUR MEETINGS I HAVE HEARD OF THE MANY PRECEDENT- SHATTERING
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MEASURES TAKEN BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS,
ACTIONS

WHICH HOLD OUT REAL HOPE FOR AN ACCELERATION IN THE PACE OF
AFGHANISTAN' S DEVELOPMENT. INCREASED TAX COLLECTIONS, NEW
LEGISLATION IN MANY FIELDS, CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG THE EXECUTIVE,
LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL ARMS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATION
OF YOUR MINISTRY STRUCTURE; THESE AND MANY MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
ILLUSTRATE THE ENERGY AND CREATIVITY BEING APPLIED TO AFGHANISTAN' S
PROBLEMS. (AND IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS REALM, THE CONCLUSION OF
YOUR TREATY WITH IRAN TO SETTLE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE ANCIENT
HELMAND WATERS PROBLEM IS A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR AFGHAN
STATESMANSHIP.)

AFGHANISTAN' S DETERMINED ADHERENCE TO A POLICY OF NON-
ALIGNMENT IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE
WARMTH OF OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.
WE ALONG WITH MANY OTHER NATIONS HAVE LONG PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HELP FORWARD AFGHANISTAN' S MODERNIZATION
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE ENERGETIC, SELF- RELIANT MEASURES YOUR
GOVERNMENT NOW IS TAKING TO MOBILIZE MORE OF ITS OWN RESOURCES
FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ARE VERY ENCOURAGING, NOT ONLY TO US
BUT UNDOUBTEDLY TO OTHER DONOR NATIONS AND AGENCIES. WE HAVE
EVERY HOPE OF CONTINUING TO ASSIST WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN YOUR
EFFORTS.

AMONG THE MANY TOPICS I DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER
SHAFIQ I WAS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED TO HEAR HIM AGAIN REITERATE
HIS GOVERNMENT' S DETERMINATION TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE
INTERNATIONAL CRUSADE AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. FOR THIS CRUSADE
TO SUCCEED WILL REQUIRE FULL COOPERATION AMONG MANY GOVERNMENTS.
I AM DELIGHTED TO LEARN OF THE MULTILATERAL PROGRAM NOW BEING
DEvised UNDER UNITED NATIONS LEADERSHIP TO ASSIST AFGHANISTAN
BEGIN TO ELIMINATE ILLEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING.
MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO
THIS MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT.

I LEAVE AFGHANISTAN CONVINCED THAT THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS
WHICH HAVE LONG EXISTED BETWEEN OUR NATIONS ARE FIRMLY BASED AND
SHOULD BE EVER MORE STRONGLY REINFORCED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.
UNQUOTE.

4. NOTE THAT PARA IN PARENTHESES IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT SHOULD
BE USED ONLY IF HELMAND TREATY RATIFIED BY TIME STATEMENT ISSUED.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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